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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-15

JANUARY 31, 1944

CROPS ON HAND

Stocks of wheat in storage in the United States, January 1, 1944 amounted to 843 million bushels, corn 2,049 million bushels, oats 759 million bushels, barley 215 million bushels, rye 46 million bushels. The bulk of all these except rye is stored on farms; most rye is in terminals. Wheat stored in interior mills, elevators and warehouses, 146 million bushels, about 39 percent less than record holdings a year earlier.

Stocks of salable potatoes in 37 States, January 1, totaled 138 million bushels, 38 percent more than year previous—assuring an ample potato supply until new crop.

Rough rice in storage January 1 was 29 million bushels (equivalent to 32 percent of the 1943 crop). Quantity of rice in storage a year earlier was 32.4 million bushels. Stocks in South 17.9 million bushels, about 22 percent less this year than last; in California 11 million bushels or about 18 percent under last year.

SMALL STOCK OF APPLES AND PEARS IN STORAGE

Cold storage stocks of apples January 1 were 20.7 million bushels, about 32 percent less than year previous. Slightly over half this stock was western boxed apples. Crop of commercial apples this season, about 88 million bushels, was very short and supplies will be small until new crop. Cold storage holdings of pears January 1 were only 713,000 bushels, 53 percent under year ago and 46 percent under five year average; holdings smallest since 1928. The biggest cut in last year's crop was in late pears.

WHAT VARIETIES OF APPLES DO WE GROW?

The half-dozen leading varieties of winter apples grown commercially in this country last year were, in order: Delicious 14.1 million bushels, Winesap 9.8 million, McIntosh 9.2 million, Rome Beauty 5.6 million, York Imperial 4.2 million, Yellow Newtown (or Albemarle Pippin) 3.9 million. All the foregoing are winter varieties. The leading early or summer variety was Gravenstein 2.6 million bushels. The leading fall variety Jonathan 6.8 million bushels, it thus ranking fourth in the whole list.

LARGE CITRUS CROP

New record citrus fruit crop in sight, apparently slightly larger than last year and nearly two-thirds larger than ten year average (1932-41). Output of oranges and tangerines this season

estimated 97 million boxes, 9 percent above last year; the early and mid-season crops, now coming to market, are about 19 percent above last year. Prospective grapefruit crop, however, (around 49.5 million boxes) is slightly smaller than last season. California lemon crop, 15 million boxes, is second only to record crop of 1940-41. Per capita supply of fresh citrus fruit for civilians in 1944 may be about 10 percent larger than quantity consumed in 1943. Most of the increase is oranges.

STRONG TOBACCO SITUATION

Returns to tobacco growers from 1943 crop estimated at about \$540 million, compared with \$507 million from 1942 crop and previous record return of \$451 million in 1919. The 1943 crop of flue-cured, about 790 million pounds, was sold at an average of almost 40 cents a pound, highest price since 1919. Bulk of Burley crop sold at an average of 45.8 cents a pound, about 4 cents over previous year. Per capita consumption of tobacco products in U. S. probably reached a peak (around 9 pounds) in 1943. Cigarette consumption a record but cigars and smoking tobacco under previous year. Stocks on hand of all major types of tobacco are smaller than a year ago. Farm acreage allotments this year will be increased 20 percent over 1943.

DAIRY TREND DOWNWARD

Total milk production in November 7,980 million pounds, which was 2 percent under previous November and was equivalent to an annual production of 114 billion pounds, on basis of normal seasonal variation. Production was declining the latter part of 1943; for the year it was about 1 percent under 1942. If present trend

continues, the output in 1944 will be about 116 billion pounds. To reach the 121 billion pound goal this year will require more cows and more feed for the cows.

Total output of manufactured dairy products in November was 16 percent under October and 8 percent below previous November. More milk proportionately has been used as milk and cream and a smaller percentage going into cheese, dried milk, etc. Butter production in the four weeks ended Dec. 25 was 18 percent less than in like period a year earlier.

Cows are still being heavily fed; on Dec. 1 an average of 4.66 pounds of grain per cow, against 4.90

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	DEC. 15 1943	JAN. 15 1944	JAN. 15 1944
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.43	1.46	1.49
Corn, bu. dol.	1.11	1.13	1.08
Oats, bu. dol.	.77	.775	.674
Cotton, lb. ct.	19.85	20.15	20.96
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.35	1.41	1.22
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	12.80	12.80	12.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	11.40	11.40	9.16
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.70	12.70	11.40
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	12.10	12.50	9.94
Butterfat, lb. ct.	51.	50.8	46.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.83	3.35	2.86
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	24.4	23.9	19.3
Eggs, doz. ct.	44.9	34.6	34.5

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

pounds a year earlier and five year average that date of 3.95 pounds. However, heavy feeding has been offset in some sections by a lower protein content and by poor quality of some hay and silage. Milk situation of the coming year depends in no small degree upon the feed crops and pasture of this summer.

HUGE MEAT OUTPUT

Estimated meat output last year was 23.2 billion pounds, dressed weight, 16 percent more than the 21.5 billion pounds made in 1942. That increase was mostly pork. Beef production in 1943 appears to have been moderately lower than in 1942. Veal, lamb and mutton showed slight increases. Total meat output in 1944 may reach 25 billion pounds, dressed weight. If present forecasts are borne out and non-civilian requirements do not change greatly civilians will probably receive about the same quantity of meat per capita in 1944 as last year.

FEWER HOGS NEXT WINTER?

A lot of hogs will come to market between now and September. Number of pigs saved from fall crop of 1943 estimated at 47.8 million head, 10 percent more than record fall pig crop of 1942. However, the prospect is for a sharp reduction in next spring's pig crop, which would mean fewer hogs coming to market next fall and winter than was the case last fall—and they will probably be lighter weight. Reports on farmers' intentions for spring pig crop indicate about 10.2 million sows expected to farrow this spring; this would be 16 percent fewer than in the spring of 1943. Assuming average number of pigs saved per litter, the 1944 spring pig crop would be about 61.5 million head, compared with 74 million pigs saved in the spring of 1943.

FEWER CATTLE ON FEED

Total number of cattle on feed for market January 1, 1944 was 16 percent under year previous. Heaviest decreases were in western Corn Belt. Feeding sharply reduced in Texas and Oklahoma. Number on feed in the 11 Corn Belt States this January 16 percent or around half a million fewer than year previous. Corn Belt reports indicate more short-fed cattle this season than last: (46 percent of cattle on feed were intended to be marketed before April 1, compared with 35 percent likewise last year). This would indicate heavy run of cattle to market in early months of 1944 with sharp falling-off in second quarter.

FEWER LAMBS ON FEED

Number of sheep and lambs on feed for market January 1, 1944, 5,941,000, which was 15 percent under

year previous and smallest number in last four years. Estimated number on feed in 11 Corn Belt States 3.6 million head, 16 percent under last year; this reduction in Corn Belt largely due to 600,000 fewer head in Kansas because of poor wheat pasture. Number on feed outside Corn Belt 12 percent under 1943; reductions occur throughout the West, except in Nevada and California.

DRY WEATHER IN THE WEST

For the United States as a whole, rain and snow-fall, September to December, about 21 percent below normal and lightest since 1939. May affect crop yields in Northern Great Plains especially. Condition of ranges, cattle and sheep in 17 Western States slightly below average on January 1. In Oklahoma and the Southwest range conditions below average and supply of other feeds limited.

FARM HELP SITUATION LITTLE CHANGED, WAGES HIGHER

The number of workers on farms January 1 was the smallest in the 18 years of record, notwithstanding that demand for help was strong through December. There were 8,202,000 people working on farms at the beginning of this year, of which 1,580,000 were hired workers and 6,622,000 family workers. On January 1, 1943 there were 8,171,000 workers on farms, of these 1,556,000 were hired and 6,615,000 family workers. The figures would indicate that the farm help situation is at least no worse than a year ago.

Farm wages are up sharply. Average farm wage in the Central States, per day without board, on January 1, 1944 was \$4.42 against \$3.65 a year earlier. Ditto per month with board \$61.60 this winter against \$49.81 year ago. These wages are higher this winter in every section

of the Nation, ranging from \$5 a month higher in some Southeastern States to as much as \$15 higher in the Rocky Mountain States.

FARM INCOME

Total income from farm products sold during November, including Government payments \$2,050 million, compared with \$1,825 million in November 1942. Government payments November \$38 million, compared with \$61 million year previous.

For the 11 months, January to November, total income was \$17,939 million, which included \$620 million Government payments. Comparable figure in 1942 was \$14,492 million, which included \$625 million Government payments.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142-Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JANUARY 1944
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	196
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	169
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	116
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	162
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 177
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	275
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 410
RATIOS	LONG-TIME JAN. AVERAGE	JANUARY 1944
Hog-corn ratio, J. S.	11.9	11.3
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	25.6	23.9
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.31	³ 1.40
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	20.2	15.3
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-DEC. 1942	JAN.-DEC. 1943
Milk, (bill. lb.)	119	118
Eggs, (bill.)	48	54
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	6,347	5,970
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	880	958
Pork & Lard (mil. lb.)	9,927	12,161
¹ December figure.		
² Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. November figure.		
³ Includes an allowance for dairy feed payments.		